

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-5 and 12-13 are requested to be cancelled.

Claim 15 is currently being amended.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1-5 and 12-13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, whereby Applicant intends to prosecute these claims in a continuation or divisional application. Claim 15 has been amended slightly to improve its readability without changing its scope. No new matter has been added. Claims 6-11 and 14-15 remain pending.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 6-15 are allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Okamoto. Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto in view of Yamaguchi. These rejections are moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-5.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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By

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